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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 18658 231117Z
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 AGRE-00 L-03 OIC-02 IGA-02
/110 W
----------015317 231121Z /10
R 230920Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5454
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18658

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEAN, E, P, TH
SUBJ: U.S.-ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS: THE THAI VIEW

REF: STATE 195296

1. THEP THEWAKUN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ASEAN AFFAIRS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INFORMED EMBOFFS AUGUST 22 RTG HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR HIM HEAD THAI DELEGATION TO US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS IN MANILA. HOWEVER, WITH THE UPGRADING OF LEADERSHIP OF ASEAN DELEGATIONS THAI NOW PLAN TO HAVE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMERCE WICHAN NIWATWONG HEAD DELEGATION. THEP PROMISED PROVIDE
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COMPLETE RTG DELEGATION LIST AT SUCH TIME AS COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION BECAME FIRM.

2. THEP WILL BE GOING TO MANILA FOR PREPARATORY MEETING. HE WILL ALSO ATTEND THE ASEAN MINISTERS CONFERENCE AT PATTAYA SEPTEMBER 2-4 AT WHICH TIME FINAL TECHNICAL PAPERS WILL BE PREPARED. THEP OBSERVED MANY MEETINGS HAD NOT YET PRODUCED FINAL AGREED

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POSITIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS KEPT COMING IN. IN HIS VIEW FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION CAN BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS IF IT SIMPLY ESTABLISHED MOMENTUM AND DIRECTION FOR US-ASEAN COOPERATION. TIME IS TOO SHORT AND SUBJECTS TOO COMPLEX FOR RESOLUTION IN MANILA. HE ANTICIPATES ONLY BROAD GENERAL STATEMENTS OF FUTURE INTENTIONS WILL EMERGE FROM THE MEETING.

3. REFERRING TO THE RECENT ASEAN SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR, THEP CONTENDED ITS PRINCIPAL VALUE HAD BEEN THE ENHANCEMENT OF ASEAN PRESTIGE BECAUSE OF THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING PRESENCE OF PRIME MINISTERS OF JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND. OTHER THAN THAT THE MEETING MERELY REAFFIRMED PAST INTENTIONS AND NO SOLID ADVANCES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

4. COMMENT: THEP'S RATHER BLEAK OBSERVATIONS MAY REFLECT PIQUE BECAUSE HE WILL NOT BE THE THAI STAR AT THE MANILA MEETING. HOWEVER, HIS SKEPTICISM THAT ASEAN PROGRESS HAS THUS FAR BEEN MODEST AND THE CHANCES OF A RAPID EVOLUTION OF THE GROUP REMOTE ACCURATELY DEPICT THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE THAI BUREAUCRACY.
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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
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**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
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**TAGS:** PORG, TH, ASEAN, (WICHAN NIWATWONG)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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